

Interview Transcript

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Interviewee: Sister Judy Molosky

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Sean Gary, Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University.

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Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments]

[00:00:33.02] SHANNON GREEN: Today is November 15, 2017. We are at Carondelet Center, Mount St. Mary's University CSJ Institute, CSJ Oral History Project, Shannon Green interviewing Sister Judy Molosky.

[00:00:46.28] SHANNON GREEN: So if we could get started, would you tell us your full name and your age?

[00:00:52.26] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: My name is Sister Judy Molosky. I am seventy years old as of last week.

[00:00:59.27] SHANNON GREEN: Happy birthday! [all laugh]. Sister Judy, would you start us off by telling us a little bit about your family, your childhood, where you grew up?

[00:01:09.25] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Wow! I'm a real Angeleno. I grew up in Los Angeles [California] in St. Anselm's parish, right by Florence [Avenue] and Normandy [Avenue], where some things happened in the 90s. [1992 Rodney King Riots]. My mother and father were married in 1942. And my brother came first. And my brother is a dentist, now. But we both went to St. Anselm's elementary school, and we loved the parish. I was in the choir and I went through wonderful years growing up. We did vacations together, we did the Catholic Church big time, and I probably fell in love with the Sisters of St. Joseph around seventh grade, because Sister Clara Joseph [??] was my teacher, and she had gone to school with my mother. They were classmates. So that was an interesting thing for me to think about--as a mom and a Sister--how did that--how does that work? But we were skiers, we went fishing, we went all over the world, because my mother worked for American Air Lines, so we got free tickets around the world. So that was really a great--we had a great family growing up. And regular life--I think it was regular life for us. We just didn't know that we were on the border of Inglewood, where there were no African-American people allowed to live there. So that's what kind of started my--probably--consciousness about white people and black people. Because when we went to sell our house, we got egged, and I didn't understand what that was in the eighth grade. But it was pretty dramatic in our lives, about understanding prejudice, because the people like us who egged us thought we were going to sell to African-American people, because they had just lifted the ban on African-Americans in Inglewood, and we were right on the border. It was dramatic in my life.

[00:03:18.14] SHANNON GREEN: [Director's comments].

[00:04:40.07] SHANNON GREEN: So, you were involved in your parish. Were you a pretty religious family?

[00:04:45.21] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I was definitely involved in my parish. Went to all eight

grades. And I think my mother mostly drove the Sisters of St. Joseph around a lot, because they lived at St. Mary's Academy, which was on Crenshaw and Slauson, and they didn't have licenses. So, she was very involved with the Sisters, so I was too. And she was helping with the altar and the--some kind of club. But my mom and dad always worked full time, the whole time. So we were always conscious that we had to be good kids, especially when they were at work and we came home from school, and we couldn't have, you know, all kinds of people over at our house. So we had to kind of toe the line if we were going to go skiing on the weekend. And my mother's favorite story was, one weekend we went skiing on Saturday, and came, and it was so hot that the snow was melting. And so we came and went to the beach on Sunday. So, we were outdoors people.

[00:05:52.09] SHANNON GREEN: What impact do you think it had on you as growing up that you could travel so much?

[00:05:58.21] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Wow! The impact about traveling was--because my mother worked for American airlines--was we had the world as our oyster. It was just amazing to be able to pay twelve dollars for a flight--because we had to pay the taxes. But we went to Mexico, we went to Washington, D.C. As a ten year old I got to see the world. So I think I was imbued with the desire to travel--a lot.

[00:06:32.03] [Director's comments].

[00:06:44.05] SHANNON GREEN: I want to go back to the Inglewood--the house-selling thing. Were your parents aware of the issues, do you think, about segregated housing? Or was this a kind of a consciousness-forming for all of you as a family?

[00:06:58.22] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I think my parents were really aware of the issue around Inglewood and housing and--just thinking about what that meant for people who weren't able to be free in Los Angeles. And for us who--my father started to get better work, and he started his own company. And so by seventh or eighth grade, we were getting money. [laughs]. We were actually ready actually to move out of there, out of the area, and go literally thirty miles away to Glendale, where we built our own house, hanging off of a hill--cantilevered, they used to call it. And in my senior year of high school at St. Bernard's, I drove from Glendale to Westchester every day with my dad. And I think we talked a lot about rich and poor, because both my parents grew up pretty poor--my dad in Pennsylvania and my mom in Los Angeles, but on the edge of poverty. And so for them to have been married and getting both of them--wanting us to be have everything we could possibly have as teenagers, it was just a gift. We knew it was a gift because they always reminded us that it was a gift to have something and be grateful for it.

[00:08:31.24] SHANNON GREEN: So at what age do you started thinking about becoming a Sister?

[00:08:36.03] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I think I started thinking about becoming a Sister in the seventh grade. That was the time that I knew that my teacher was also a classmate of my mothers. And so that made me think, "Wow, I'm not sure I want to do this mother thing." And I never babysat--I never had little kids around. My cousins were all older than me in the Valley. So, I just wasn't called to think about being married and having children. And so I thought a lot about these inspirational women who taught me in elementary school. And then high school--I really thought about it. By the sophomore year I was talking to Sister Joseph Adele [Edwards (1933-2011)], who was my English teacher, and I loved her. And she said to me one time, "Well, do you think you can wait until you graduate from high school?" And I laughed at her, "No, I'm going with Gary--I'm not thinking about entering the convent now!" But I just had the idea that these women were really happy. And also, it was a comparative kind of thing. There were Daughters of Mary and Joseph at

our high school, and there were Holy Name Sisters at our high school. And so I did a lot of comparing between their attitudes towards life, the fun that the Sisters of St. Joseph had, the relationships that they built--they were really friends with each other. And I noticed that. I was aware of that all through high school at St. Bernard's in Westchester. It was just a thrill to be there, and be a cheerleader, and to be involved in all kinds of things at St. Bernard's. And my brother was in the baseball team, and--I tried out volleyball but that didn't quite work for me. [laughs]. So sports was not my thing, but definitely cheerleading--I was a cheerleader every single year at St. Bernard's, where they had the big St. Bernard dog who would jump on us. And it was there that I did--I think I thought mostly about being a Sister. And all my other friends were going to go to San Diego State or San Francisco State, and I went to Religious State. By the end of my high school year we had a big party.

[00:10:48.28] SHANNON GREEN: Were there other students from St. Bernard's who entered religious life?

[00:10:54.07] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: There was one other girl who entered at the same year that I did--one--and she probably left within three months. So I guess it wasn't for her. But it clearly was for me and I was excited to be joining forty-one other young women in 1965. I graduated in June--I was seventeen--and I entered the convent in September--September 8th--[sings] "I'm entering the eighth I am, entering the eighth I am I am". That was the song that was out at that time--"I'm Henry the Eighth I am" ["I'm Henry VIII, I Am" by Herman's Hermits (1965)]. That was the song. So we just translated it into being our day. And it was pretty dramatic. Black long skirts to--almost to the floor--and we had nine inches from the floor. My mother was not happy. My mother really didn't want me to do this. My father was just--he just wanted me to be happy. But my mother cried for a year. And she kept playing, "The hills are alive with the Sound of Music" ["The Sound of Music", music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, 1959] a lot--and she would cry--in our beautiful home in Glendale, that I was really giving up, because we had the home, we had the pool, I had a job at the country club across the street--and I was giving it up to become a Sister. That was really different--really dramatically different.

[00:12:22.26] SHANNON GREEN: What did you--what did it mean to you--what does becoming a Sister mean to you at that point? You know, you're saying these women are inspiring, and--but what were your hopes for yourself? What did this mean for your life beyond--?

[00:12:38.26] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I think what I was desiring at the time, at seventeen--I knew that I wanted to probably do good for people--really serve. I don't think that we talked about the "dear neighbor" in those days, or the charism, but I definitely wanted to be of service to other people. And--not that my classmates weren't going to be of service--but I wanted to dedicate myself to God and do it through the community--through a group of people who were going to be supportive of me and I could support others. And I wasn't--I mean, I am an extrovert. I am a person who really likes other people no matter if they like me or not. And I enjoyed thinking about what we could do together that I couldn't do by myself. That was probably the most important draw for me.

[00:13:45.00] SHANNON GREEN: How was it? [all laugh]. How was life as a postulant for Sister Judy?

[00:13:48.16] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: How'd that go? How'd that go for you? So--like I said, there were forty-one of us who entered at that time. And for some, it wasn't for them, and so it was kind of tough--because we would see this note on the board that the Postulant Director put up there, and it would be, "Sally Smith left last night--please pray for her". No discussion. Like, yow!! We have to talk about it! So we would talk about it in the closets or in the bathroom or someplace

where we wouldn't be heard, because we had some silence times. But I just thought those were somebody's rules--I guess at the time--they were somebody's rules that I didn't make fun of, exactly, but I didn't think that was part of the real life, because I had such great mentors. Like Sister Joseph Adele--like Sister Dorothy Mary [(formerly Cathy) Edwards]. They were people at my high school who said, "Just kind of tolerate these beginning years, and you will be something after these beginning formative years that will lead you to God and support you for the rest of your life." So they inspired me in that kind of way, because I decided I am really a "God-seeker". That's what I was doing. I was coming to be somebody who sought God in all things. I think I was a Jesuit before I knew about Jesuits. But seeing God in all things was really--I mean I knew about God in animals and on a ski slope, protecting me from falling and those--that kind of God. But I was really a person--I don't think I understood what prayer was at the time. But Thomas Merton [O.C.S.O. (1915-1968), American Catholic writer, theologian and mystic] definitely got me through the novitiate--and Henry Nouwen [Henri Jozef Machiel Nouwen (1932-1996), Dutch theologian]. Those two powerful writers got me through those tough times.

[00:15:54.20] SHANNON GREEN: So--because you enter in the sixties--so things are starting to move already. And so that's a part of your formation experience, it seems. You know, some of your other Sisters probably didn't read Merton or Nouwen in the postulant--

[00:16:10.10] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: [laughs]. Probably not. No--I had to--

[00:16:14.11] SHANNON GREEN: So how is that kind of impacting the experience--this broader change--broader movement?

[00:16:19.03] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh, I entered in the sixties, in the middle of Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)]. I mean, this was a very big time in our Church. And so we entered--I--we couldn't have driver's licenses, we couldn't have watches--imagine not having a watch on your hand! And by--I think I entered in September and by June we were able to have watches and go home--home visit. And get our--go home in order to get our driver's licenses, which was phenomenal. I mean, things started changing immediately--kind of immediately. [laughs]. But I think it was a revolution in religious life, because of the documents of Vatican II. And asking all religious women to--well, all religious men and women--to look at why were you founded, and are you still following those premises, those precepts, those policies of the early times of why you were founded. And I never had even thought about why we were founded. But when we found out who the six women were who founded us in Le Puy, France, it was pretty revolutionary for Sisters of St. Joseph in the early--or mid--sixties. I thought it was great, because it was change. I think I'm a person who really likes change--really likes growth, and also likes truth. And this was becoming more and more evident to me that the changes in the Church because of Vatican II were really about getting to the heart of what the Church is about. "The people of God"--that resonated with me in an incredible way. I loved that. And that's what I wanted to do with my life--to serve the people of God--to be a person who served God and others.

[00:18:15.04] SHANNON GREEN: You want to talk a little bit about the habit? [all laugh]. Did you ever receive the full habit?

[00:18:19.19] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh this is really--[laughs]. So, the habit and I had a really incredible relationship, because I was in a postulant outfit for a year, and then we received the habit, and really only wore it for a year because of Vatican II and the changes. But because I had a very broken ankle from cheerleading in high school--it was a fracture that took two years to heal if I stayed off of it--so I never got out of the habit for two years. All my friends were in experimental habits--or experimental dress. But I wore the habit, because I kept using crutches that kept

ruining my clothes--the habit in particular. And I could replace the habit--the part of the habit that got ruined, but I couldn't replace a brand new outfit that we were experimenting with. So, I was in full habit going up and down to Mount St. Mary's College at the time, where I was on crutches--going up that hill, every day to class, where I would plead that God would send me a wonderful Mount student to offer me a ride. And sometimes it happened--about every tenth car, maybe every tenth day. It did not happen very often. So I guess I'm still kind of upset about that. [laughs]. No, I really built up my arms and other parts of my body in going up and down the hill. But two years to heal.

[00:20:03.20] SHANNON GREEN: So were you then anxious to get rid of the habit, or to change it? Or how did you feel about it?

[00:20:10.00] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Okay. The issue with the habit is, I was not able to get out of the habit because of the crutches. But I made everybody else's outfits and experimental veils. I became a seamstress during that time, and worked with many different people, measuring and understanding what sewing was all about, which I really didn't know. But I learned how to do that. But I was--I don't think I was jealous of other people. I just knew that I couldn't go into the experimental dress until I got off the crutches. And many Sisters older than myself--professed members--thought that I would never be professed, because I had an impediment. I had a broken ankle that wasn't healing. And so you don't become a Sister in those days if there is something physically wrong with you. That was--I never knew that--I never heard that from anybody. But afterwards they were very happy that I got off the crutches and I could walk. [all laugh].

[00:21:19.01] SHANNON GREEN: So what did you study at the Mount?

[00:21:21.15] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Mount St. Mary's College, for me, was a huge, huge calling--challenge--because I wanted to be a Math major, and the Math teachers were a couple of nuns, but mostly laymen, which in the summertime was just a thrill. We had calculus. We had algebra and all those other courses. But we didn't have books. This calculus teacher would actually run off the copies on a mimeograph machine that he would present the next day. It was crazy. There were three of us who were Math majors, and we bonded big-time. And they didn't always have the classes we wanted, so we had to go to Northridge--Cal State Northridge--awesome! And one of us had to drive. I don't remember driving. But the other--my minor was Social Studies. And I got to take just great classes from wonderful, wonderful women. But I also was at school in the classroom with other friends from St. Bernard's. So--and we couldn't talk to them in those days--we had to pass notes. [laughs]. So, of course, I didn't follow those rules of--well, I followed the rules of not talking to people--my classmates from high school. But I devised other ways--like passing notes. There was no Internet, there was no emailing, there was no texting, so we communicated that way. And I also--during those days there was a few priests that were wonderful to me--Piarest fathers [The Order of Poor Clerics Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools]--who taught me in high school, who would write notes to me, or write letters to me, and put "Confessor" on the outside of the envelope--because then the Postulant Mistress or the Novice Director couldn't open them. So I got to have direct letters about how life was at my high school--because these wonderful men were devising ways to go around the rules. [smiles]. I thought that was kind of nice.

[00:23:35.28] SHANNON GREEN: [laughs].

[00:23:37.03] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I didn't tell you about Tim and all that. There was--when I entered--when I wanted to become a Sister, I was going with Tim. And Tim was at Loyola High School. And he really helped me discern whether I wanted to be married or whatever. We were on a

ski trip--as in water ski trip--with a bunch of other people from high school. And I remember distinctly that I told him I knew what I wanted to be. And he said, "Oh, what?" And I said, "It starts with an 'N'". And he said to me, "Oh, a nurse?" And I said, "No, a nun--and you helped me decide that, because you told me that you wanted twelve children. And I said to you, or I said it in my head, I guess, 'Not with me!'. I wasn't interested in twelve children. So thank you, Tim, for helping me discern." And poor Tim--his mother and my mother were friends--and Tim's mother called my mother and said, "Tim has chest pains--I have to take him to a psychiatrist to get help, because I think Judy broke his heart." And to this day, his wife of--what--forty years, thinks of me as the one who broke Tim's heart. [all laugh]. It's like--I'm sorry, Tim, but I'm really happy in this life and you're happy married. [all laugh].

[00:25:01.00] KELBY THWAITS: I'm sorry, I gotta laugh. I wanted to hold it as long as I could--

[00:25:06.02] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Twelve children!!

[00:25:07.15] KELBY THWAITS: Twelve children!!

[00:25:08.26] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: What is the matter with you?

[00:25:10.13] KELBY THWAITS: I was going to ask if he drove you into this--and he kind of did.

[00:25:15.13] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: He did. It was very--I mean, it was clear to me with Tim. But then, are you still rolling, because I have--all right. So this is--this story with Tim is--I really--he was a great guy, and he did get married to Elsa. And in fact they had two children, they went to the Peace Corps in Africa. Africa! And they wanted to have more children when they came back. She took the fertility medicine that you take to have more children--had five, and only one survived. So I think they stopped. So they have three children. Tim didn't get his twelve. But it was very, very defining for me. [laughs]. Said no to marriage and children. Thank you, Tim.

[00:26:02.27] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you, Tim. [all laugh].

[00:26:06.01] KELBY THWAITS: [laughs].

[00:26:06.02] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: He still thinks it's funny. He's out there--he has my phone number. He won't call me. He keeps asking--really--it's crazy. Okay. Sorry. Wasting time.

[00:26:15.00] SHANNON GREEN: [laughs]. So your first ministries--you were a teacher.

[00:26:22.05] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Yes.

[00:26:22.29] SHANNON GREEN: And so you did get your Math degree, yes? You got your degree in Math?

[00:26:25.10] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh yeah, a BA. I'm a BA.

[00:26:27.29] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah, when you said it was challenging I didn't know if you meant you were--in the academic way--

[00:26:30.09] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh, no. It was--just was hard. It was hard. All I wanted--no. No, I--what's the question?

[00:26:39.28] SHANNON GREEN: The question is, tell me about your first mission.

[00:26:43.09] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Mission. Oh my God. I don't know--I don't want to tell you about my first mission. Okay. So my first mission was in San Francisco. I thought I'd died and went to heaven. My brother was there going to dental school. I loved San Francisco--we had traveled there many times. And I went to--I blanked out--

[00:27:05.12] SHANNON GREEN: St. Thomas?

[00:27:04.29] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: --St. Thomas the Apostle school, and I was going to teach seventh and eighth grade Math and science. And it was three blocks from the beach. And my first night there, one of the Sisters in the community of six people came to me and told me that she was happy that I was there, but she was leaving the next day--from the community. It's like, oh my God! "Welcome Judy--welcome to this new school! And you're going to start teaching, and I bet community's going to be a challenge." And the two biggest challenges were really about the heater in the convent, and what the temperature should be, and who is going to drive the two cars, out of the six of us--how to sign out these cars. Those are my two biggest challenges in community. And they still have not changed fifty-two years later. It's pretty challenging, except I have my own car. [laughs]. No, I loved teaching. I got to teach seventh and eighth grade. I got to raise chinchillas. This lady down the street didn't know what to do with having her chinchillas not have babies--they brought them into my science lab and somehow, they started having babies. And it was like, "This is great! I love this school!" So I taught--the second year the Principal asked me--Sister Marcella Fabing, my friend to this minute--asked me if I wanted to be the Vice Principal of the school. It was my second year. There were other people who were there longer. I was embarrassed to say yes, but I did say yes. And I just thrived at St. Thomas's. And then I got the--I was being called by many people, but they wanted me to teach high school, because I had gotten my secondary credential at Mount St. Mary's. And that really meant that I--the Sisters in my life told me--my mentors told me, "You really need to know where the high school kids come from, so you need to teach seventh and eighth grade so you get the whole transition from younger to older". So when I got the call to go to Carondelet High School from Sister Kathleen [M.] Kelly, who had been my History teacher at St. Bernard's--she really convinced me that I--it was time to go teach high school. And so I transitioned from one part of the Bay in San Francisco to Concord, California and taught there for four years. And again, loved every minute, except I think I started an ulcer, because I was the sophomore class advisor, and they were challenging. I think marijuana was just coming out then, and the most wonderful president of the sophomore class--sweet girl from Antioch, California--was caught smoking marijuana. I said, "Oh, I guess I have to talk to her". So there were some challenges in high school--in the high school years. But I loved it and I was there for four years.

[00:30:18.09] SHANNON GREEN: And then you came back to Los Angeles, it looks like to Bishop Conaty [High School]. So the teaching continued. So at this point, the '70s are--you know, Vatican II--we're in the full, kind of post-Vatican II.

[00:30:29.17] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: There's a lot to talk about at Carondelet.

[00:30:31.08] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah. So--but you're still in what we might call the traditional ministry.

[00:30:38.08] [Director's comments].

[00:31:08.18] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Do you want me to talk about group government and stuff?

Because community life was super-duper--

[00:31:13.25] SHANNON GREEN: Well, yeah, why don't you talk a little bit about community life, sure.

[00:31:17.18] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Okay. So in Carondelet, at the high school, with Sister Kathleen Kelly as Principle of the school, the community was absolutely vibrant. And we wanted to experiment with group government. There was not going to be a Superior in this convent. And we're talking 1972--big change--huge. So, we had meetings after meetings after meetings about what group government looked like. But it was clearly a discernment process. It was clearly about listening to one another, and what do we want to do for our spiritual lives, what do we want to do for fun lives, what do we want to do for increasing the--our own life-long learning. And so--and we were close to GTU, Graduate Theological Union at [University of California] Berkeley. So we had wonderful priests come over and have dinner with us, talk with us, go to lectures--it was really a growth-filled time. And also feeling really adult--I felt like an adult person who didn't have to have a superior. But we did such good decision-making about our own lives. Thrilling--thrilling. We also went skiing on the weekends--[laughs]--because of--a lot of friends from Carondelet High School had houses, and had places at Lake Tahoe. So we would go, and some of the Sisters really wanted to do that. So I got to teach people how to ski, which was kind of exciting. We didn't have the habit--we were out of the habit, and we were in regular clothes. And we also did a mid-term experience, where Sister Anne McMullen and I took these young women skiing for two weeks and then to Hawaii for two more weeks. That was really exciting--because we had Sisters in Hawaii, and we got to be with them and we got to experience what travel was like. And we also--it was called "Cooking and Traveling" I think was the name of the course in January--it was a whole month. It was like an inter-term. And that was--lots of experimentation during that year, which probably touched into the desire in me to be about change, to be about innovation, to experiment with all kinds of things. And that was the years to experiment. But it also had a Spiritual Director--we prayed every day with the Sisters as--and had Mass probably once a week in the convent. But we definitely had Mass in the parish--or--

[00:34:01.26] SHANNON GREEN: You said you had lots of people come and speak and it was exciting in terms of movement of the Vatican--of Second Vatican Council. Were there--you already mentioned "people of God" as one of those exciting models or ways to think about the Church. Were there other--either theologians or kind of images of God or Church or spiritual movements that really captured your imagination at that time?

[00:34:32.06] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Breaking my memory--[all laugh]. Breaking my brain cells.

[00:34:37.10] SHANNON GREEN: That's what I'm here for.

[00:34:39.10] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I know, but I don't--

[00:34:41.09] SHANNON GREEN: If not, that's okay. I just wanted to--

[00:34:42.22] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Jake Empereur [SJ, American theologian]. I couldn't remember his name. Okay. So I think for me the years at Carondelet High School in '72 to '76 were expanding my mind and my education about religion--about spirituality. We had people like Jake Empereur, who was a Jesuit, who didn't just come to celebrate Mass with us, but we had discussions, and they were deep, and they were wonderful and expanding. We--I think at the time, because we were both in religious life and Jesuits and Sisters of St. Joseph--the term "signs of the times" was very revealing for us, because we had to think about what times are we living in? What

is this "people of God" saying to us--calling to us? And I think we discerned together what that meant. In fact, some people started doing not just the education and nursing ministries. People were breaking out of that mold and experimenting with things--especially dealing with social justice. And one of the things we did as a community--or about four of us--was join a program called "Match 2"--match a person on the outside of prison and match with one person on the inside of prison. And there was a prison about an hour away from us, and we got the education to--how to be with this one person we were going to be matched with. And we were all nuns, right? And we got to the warden's desk--or the front desk of the prison--and they were shocked that we didn't have a habit on. And so they kind of re-thought this whole thing, but then they let us in. And my guy probably taught me more about life and what it means to be on the edge and be arrested and be imprisoned, where you really don't have any life connections of your family, especially when your family rejects you. And so, I was really the only person who he connected with on the outside. And it was revolutionary for me to be involved as a nun--to talk with somebody--to be there like a spiritual advisor. I mean, that's what I felt like. And it was more spiritual and human advisor--he'd do a lot of human stuff with me, and I'd do a lot of spiritual stuff with him. But we took pictures together--I was like his partner, as a person who would visit him. We did once a month--we would go and do this Match 2--for about two years. Pretty amazing.

[00:37:36.28] SHANNON GREEN: What other social justice issues are kind of coming to the fore for you at that time?

[00:37:40.15] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh God help us! [laughs].

[00:37:43.12] SHANNON GREEN: Do you want to talk about transitioning into House of Ruth? Or--

[00:37:46.18] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: No, no, no. Okay. Probably. At the time at Carondelet was also the farmworker movement, and Cesar Chavez [(1927-1993), American civil rights activist]. And the leadership that he gave to the farmworker movement came to us, and we did this. We would go to Safeway stores on the weekends, and literally picket. It was the great Grape Boycott [1965-1970]. And we didn't just not buy grapes, but we taught about it and what it meant with the students at Carondelet. And some of us--some of our leadership, in fact, from the Generalate at the time, were arrested. They were visionaries to us, and challenged us. I couldn't get arrested at that time because I was teaching. But I certainly gave of myself to the movement, and we did go to Keene, California and went and visited the whole center where Cesar Chavez had his operation. And I think that was probably one of the most evident social justice movements that called all of us to be about other people--who were picking grapes and picking anything for very low wages and living in horrible conditions. And so we wanted to raise people's consciousnesses about that. And we did.

[00:39:09.27] SHANNON GREEN: So you're doing activism on the weekends--certainly in the classroom as well, but you're teaching full time--

[00:39:13.18] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: [laughs]. Right. I think we did activism as much as we could. We read a lot, we discerned a lot, and we moved. And I think the great women who were at Carondelet about that was [Sister] Marilyn Schaefer--Sister Marilyn Schaefer and Sister Anne McMullen were my mentors, as far as people who would be--if you are going to be a Sister of St. Joseph you are going to be on the edge of social justice issues. You're going to move yourself into a place where it is a little bit edgy, but filled with prayer, with consciousness about the issues, and helping other people think about what is it that is unjust in society? What is it that makes our politics--our politicians--think about one part of life and not the other. And why do they stay in

power? What is power about? And I think I learned early on in those days that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. That was big. And also, Dorothy Day [Obl.S.B., (1897–1980), American journalist and social activist]. Dorothy Day was in the Catholic Worker movement--was very big with us. And you know, her adage of, "Comfort the afflicted, but afflict the comfortable". That has been a mantra for me, probably all my life since the '70s.

[00:41:07.16] [Director's comments].

[00:41:22.16] SHANNON GREEN: Would you talk about House of Ruth? And what that was, and how that came to be? Or what it is?

[00:41:29.01] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I have to just think about--wait a minute. I left Carondelet High School because I felt called to go work with young women who are not as privileged as people who were in Los Angeles, at Bishop Conaty High School. So I went there and realized that my mother had gone there, and could not afford books. Every year she was so poor that she couldn't buy the books. So she had to figure out how to get--or how to borrow--books. And that really challenged me to think about these young women who were coming from the underside of Los Angeles. And the more and more I talked with them and realized that we too, as Sisters of St. Joseph, were pretty privileged, and we lived in a wonderful convent, and we had a great life. But we also had the gift of community. And about four of us decided that we would go to the Catholic Worker for liturgy every Wednesday night. And one Wednesday night, about halfway through the year, the Catholic Worker community said, "We need somebody to take over this house, because we just had a donor buy the three houses behind us, and we're moving the whole community over there." And those of us who were at that Mass said, "Well maybe we can start a convent here. And we could invite people in to live with us." And the more and more we thought about it--we went to workshops on battered women and how to do that kind of work. We were still teaching--we still had our ministries. But we really felt called to do something with this house, because it was going to be given to us. It was an old, wonderful, two-story with a huge basement house in East Los Angeles. And we said, "We can do this." And so we went to leadership. We asked for help in starting this house. They literally gave us six hundred dollars--that was our first budget. And we said, "This is going to be challenging". But the community supported us all the way. And so [Sister] Georgeann O'Brien ['53 (d. 1993)], who was working for the archdiocese came. She was our senior citizen, because the community said, "You need--you can't start the house with these young people". I was probably thirty, maybe. [Sister] Jeanette Van Vleck [(1943–2003)] was thirty-seven. I just remember thinking, "Oh she's really old" at the time. And [Sister] Linda Pearson. Linda Pearson had been teaching first grade, and she gave it up to be the Director of the House of Ruth. So the four of us started it, but I was the one who helped write the Articles of Incorporation and the non-profit 5013c application. I learned all this during the time I was teaching. And we started in 1978 to bring in women who were not battered women, but they were homeless, and they were with children. And we just did not have the security and the anonymity to have a battered women's shelter. So we started the House of Ruth, and there were many, many people who applied to our shelter. It was not for lack of women. We--there were many people. We realized that we were really the husbands or the spouses that they just didn't have. They had been couch-surfing, or they had been unemployed, but the children were really the motivating factor. So much so, within our first six months, this woman who was very pregnant--I guess I'll cut to the chase--had the baby on the couch in the living room of the shelter. And we knew that she was very pregnant. We had taken her to County General Hospital, and the doctor said, "You nuns don't know how to do a pelvic exam. She's not ready, at least for two days." And so we brought her home, and he had told us that if she screams for a minute and there's in between three minutes of screaming, bring her back. So we all had our watches, and we were looking at our timing. And she wasn't quite ready yet. So I went to bed. I was teaching the next day. It was 2 a.m. when Linda came up into my room screaming at

me, "Judy! She's ready!" And I said, "How do you know?" And she said, "I can see the head!" And so I ran down with my glasses, because--and I ran down and I did see the head. And I went to 911 and called them. And the guy said to me, "How do you know?" I had the dog in my hand because he was just barking and going crazy at this event. And I said, "I can see the head". And then he said, "Why didn't you call us before?" And I said, "Stop asking me questions and send somebody!" By the time I got back into the living room the baby was out. And Linda was flipping it around, flipping it around. And I said, "Linda, what is it?" And she goes, "I don't know!" The cord was wrapped around the neck and she was balancing this baby. And she was supposed to lay it on the stomach. That's what [Sister] Carol [Persicki??] had told us to do on the phone, the day before. And so she laid it on the mother's stomach and she said, "I don't know what it is! I'm not going to pick it up and look at it!" She said--so it was little--Linda Paulina was our first baby, and it was just a thrill to be there. And then the big guys came with the--firemen came into the house and took both of them away. And we prayed and sat in the circle on the floor and thanked God and prayed and thanked God and cried and laughed and prayed for this Linda Paulina, who blessed our house.

[00:47:45.02] [Director's comments].

[00:48:06.05] SHANNON GREEN: So you lived in House of Ruth for a few years--

[00:48:08.26] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Five.

[00:48:09.18] SHANNON GREEN: --and then--five years? Okay, oh yes, there it is. But your ministry starts to change--your full time ministry.

[00:48:16.02] SHANNON GREEN: Right. Yeah. So my ministry at Bishop Conaty High School was wonderful. But in the middle of it I had started at this House of Ruth, and the community had just had a new Provincial--Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy. And she recognized in me that I was like a marketing person, and she needed a Vocation Director. So she asked me to be the Vocation Director for the province. And I was challenged by Sister Georgeann O'Brien, who lived in the house. She said, "You can't do vocation ministry and live at the House of Ruth!" I said, "Yes, I can! I will bring all the women over who are interested in being Sisters to the House of Ruth. What's the matter with that? That's okay." So for six years I was a Vocation Director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of the Los Angeles province. It was thrilling again to work with young women who were discerning seriously about their vocation. And--well, I don't think they called it "a vocation" in those days--they were just trying to figure out what they wanted to do in life. And I went to a lot of workshops on how to be a Vocation Director. But I mostly was myself with the young women, and helped them say, "Is this something I want to do to be happy in life--to really enjoy my own gifts, my own talents, and serve others?" And luckily we had just some magnificent leadership in our province at the time. And they supported me to go and be on the Board of the National Catholic Vocation Directors Association, which was, like, national. And so I went to great meetings across the country and got to meet incredibly extroverted marketers who were Brothers and priests and Sisters. And it was just a wonderful, wonderful time in my life for--yeah--broadened my experience of discernment really, and of prayer, and praying for these young women. One of my great people that I helped--I think I helped to enter--was [Sister] Anne Davis, and [Sister] Jan Husung. Two people. And others--many others. But some stayed--oh, [Sister] Donna Gibbs. Some stayed and some did not. I'm missing out on a couple, but it was a great time for people to hopefully do what they wanted to do.

[00:50:47.25] SHANNON GREEN: So that was probably like a term kind of a position--

[00:50:51.28] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Six years.

[00:50:52.27] SHANNON GREEN: --right. So at that point what are you thinking is next for you? What's your discernment like at this point?

[00:50:57.23] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: What did I do next? [unintelligible].

[00:51:00.02] SHANNON GREEN: It looks like you went to St. Joseph's Center.

[00:51:02.15] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: [laughs]. I can't remember what I did--

[00:51:04.05] SHANNON GREEN: You went back into social services or outreach. So it says, St. Joseph Center, House of Ruth, and then St. Louis [Missouri].

[00:51:13.24] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh really?

[00:51:16.28] SHANNON GREEN: That's what it says here. It says you're living at Holy Spirit and St. Thomas.

[00:51:21.00] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Yeah. Oh my God. Oh God help us. When was '82? Okay. Wow.

[00:51:29.03] SHANNON GREEN: So it says--after Vocation Director it says St. Joseph Center, then [unintelligible]. Tell me about St. Joseph Center.

[00:51:36.00] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Okay. I can't remember if I was case manager first or--was that Listo?

[00:51:43.03] SHANNON GREEN: It says "Hispanic advocate".

[00:51:45.27] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Yeah. Listo--Job Corps. Yeah, Listo. Yeah. Okay so--right--oh right. So, 1986 our President Ronald Reagan [Ronald Wilson Reagan (1911-2004)] passed this incredible law for immigration. And it allowed people who had been living here for ten years to be actual applicants for residency. And I said, "Woah! I want to help that happen." So I was asked to go to St. Joseph Center to help that happen, and to register people, and to be a case manager for people who wanted to prove that they had been in the country for ten years. And that went on for a while, and then we found out that there were a lot of people who weren't going to qualify. And so, some of us got together again, in the social justice realm, and we started a job cooperative called "LISTO"--means "ready". And it was for people who really fell between the cracks and they couldn't get employment, they couldn't get citizenship, or legal status. And that was a lot of people. So we were led by a group in Oakland, who had started a similar job coop. And we had a hiring hall on Friday nights. We had membership. We had a Board of Directors from Guatemala and Nicaragua and Honduras. And we had about four hundred members in this job cooperative. And we had about two thousand employers who were all on our database, including an INS [Immigration and Nationalization Service] guy one time. And he said--he said, "You know, you might want to keep that list kind of hidden--not exactly hidden but you need to be ready if anything ever comes down." And so we were cautious, but not that cautious, because I got to talk to people who were employers like Peter, Paul and Mary [American folk singers]. That was kind of cool. Peter [Yarrow (1938-)] had a friend who was a paraplegic, and I got to send a caretaker for his friend. I got to talk to Marla Maples [later wife of U.S. President Donald Trump]--at the time was maybe thinking about getting together with Donald Trump. I got to just talk with some wonderful people who just wanted somebody to either clean their house or move some furniture or do some gardening--and

we had them. They were ready and willing and we trained them. I actually trained people on how to do house cleaning. I was a good house cleaner because I'm a nun, and I know how to do that. So it was an edgy ministry. But St. Joseph Center led me into doing some other radical things like going to Honduras. We--about a hundred women signed up to have planes that went from either New Orleans or from Miami to go to protest the sixteen thousand military--it was a military buildup in Honduras. And so we were going to fly into Tegucigalpa, Honduras. And we were stopped at--we were actually stopped at New Orleans airport and they wouldn't let us get on the planes. So instead we traded in our tickets with Sister Judy Vaughan [Sister Judith Marie Vaughan '68] as our leader and [Sister] Pat Krommer, and we turned in our tickets and went to Washington, D. C. in the middle of December. We had cotton clothes and we were met by people who gave us clothes from thrift stores, with big jackets, and we went to Washington. And we had great meetings with Senators and Congresspeople to protest the buildup of troops in Honduras--in Central America. That was--we made Time Magazine. It was a very big deal because we didn't get to go there. But we raised the consciousness of a lot of people in what we were doing in Central America, especially in Nicaragua. What else did I do after that?

[00:56:03.28] SHANNON GREEN: You went to congregational leadership, looks like. That's a change.

[00:56:07.04] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: [unintelligible] like that. That's a big change.

[00:56:09.22] SHANNON GREEN: Tell us about St. Louis.

[00:56:11.29] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: So, okay. So in 1993, we had a congregational chapter. And it was very interesting the way we were doing elections in those days. So each person who felt called to leadership made a video. They actually--we had to speak for ten minutes and say what we thought about the Church, about the congregation, about ministry, about change, about renewal of religious life, and we were voted on in each of the provinces, and they nominated us. So I got nominated from like--a lot of provinces. And so I left my name in and went to the congregational chapter in 1993 here at Mount St. Mary's College (at the time), and discerned with about seventeen other people and was selected to be on the first ever congregational leadership team. We had many General Superiors with a council, but this was the first team. And I remember to this day that Sister Thomas Bernard [MacConnell (1926-)] stood up in the middle of a chapter where we were hemming and hawing about whether this team thing was going to work. And she said, "Well for 350 years we have tried the other way. Why don't we try this team thing?" And it changed all of us. Those words from that wise woman changed all of us to say, "Yes--let's support this team ministry". And so we went. [Sister] Toni Nash and I were the ones from Los Angeles, and [Sister] Lynn Levo and [Sister] Marie Damien [??] and [Sister] Rose McLarney from other provinces. And we tried to be as good team members as we possibly could with [Sister] Nancy Conway and [Sister] Jean Alvarez, our facilitators. And they were fabulous with us, as far as nobody was going to be the one in charge--everybody was going to be--shared authority, shared leadership--and we worked at it very, very diligently. And eventually Rose was in charge of Hawaii as a liaison in the beginning of the years and I--she said, "You can't be the liaison to Los Angeles, because you're from there! I'll trade you Los Angeles for Hawaii." I go, "Score!" That was really exciting. [laughs]. I'll do that. So I had to go to Hawaii four times a year from St. Louis. It was delightful, because the Hawaiian Sisters were so welcoming and so encouraging of life and nature and the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was just a thrill for me to be their liaison. And I continue to have wonderful friends in Hawaii. But we were challenged, and we had to do the 1997 Congregational Chapter, and it was very challenging. I discerned not to leave my name in for a second four years. And that was hard for me, but I--it just wasn't calling out all of my gifts.

[00:59:19.27] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: And so I came back to Los Angeles. And I went to work for Mount St. Mary's College Center for Urban Partnership. I started that Center and was eventually the Director of this program where we had forty different faculty who had and believed in service learning. And part of their actual syllabus was to go off the campus and go into the community. And that was right up my alley. I love linking students up with non-profit organizations. At the peak of it I had 975 students going off campus, doing something in the community that was relevant to their class--relevant to the course they were taking at the time. It was a great four years.

[01:00:13.14] SHANNON GREEN: You've done a number of things since then.

[01:00:18.14] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I'm getting tired of my life.

[01:00:22.22] SHANNON GREEN: No, it's not that. [all laugh].

[01:00:26.00] SHANNON GREEN: But I'm kind of curious how--your transition into leadership--and then it seems like in some ways you've made this transition--in some ways away from direct service, or direct--but then you go into some pastoral work. But I'm seeing fund-raising, you know--a lot of coordinating. And I'm wondering, you know--[unintelligible].

[01:00:51.14] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: What's that about?

[01:00:52.06] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah. Is that--how do you feel about that kind of--different kind of perspective on similar work, but you're in a different role?

[01:01:04.08] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Right.

[01:01:05.03] SHANNON GREEN: I mean, was that intentional? Was that--did leadership maybe--did you feel, maybe, you wanted to be back kind of at the grassroots level at times?

[01:01:21.02] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: I think during my time at St. Joseph Center, in being the development--helping with development to raise--whatever--twelve million dollars for the new building, I knew that I was good at it. And I knew that--it was a new learning for me--that I was good at linking people who had resources up with people who had no resources. And I was a good marketer. I was a good person who could be credible in both realms--both one-to-one, and the people who really had huge hearts but they didn't want to be involved specifically with helping people get food or housing, or whatever. And so, I became a Development Director. I became a leader in that area that a lot of people don't like. And I liked it. I loved it. And I do have a foot in each world because of the history and the life that I've led. And it's, again, a thrill for me to help people discern what they want to do with their money, and with their talents, whether it's the young women at the Mount or the young women in the program that I run now, as Director of the St. Joseph Worker Program. But I also have to continue to raise money and to raise awareness. And it's just not about the resources of funds. It's really about consciousness-raising and change-making, and social justice. And I like to open people's hearts up and eyes up to see injustices in the world, and help them see that they can be involved in a different kind of way. Maybe it's just resources, as their fund that they have that they want to share. It's about sharing and a vision. And a vision sometimes is about getting people jobs, or it's about allowing people to become a chef, and to actually get a job at a hospital or a restaurant. And that's what St. Joseph's Center does so well. It's about empowering people, giving hope to people, because they get their talents expanded and used. And I think that's just--the hope for St. Joseph's Center. And I get to help with that because I got to be a development person.

[01:04:18.14] SHANNON GREEN: No that was really good. Now I'm seeing the thread.

[01:04:24.11] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh good. I thought you were making up the question.

[01:04:26.16] SHANNON GREEN: No. Well I kind of was, but I just looking for something.

[01:04:28.04] [Director's comments].

[01:04:39.16] SHANNON GREEN: What did you do on your sabbatical? What would you do for a sabbatical or--[unintelligible].

[01:04:42.29] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh my God. You want to talk about my sabbatical--it's going to be--okay.

[01:04:47.16] [Director's comments].

[01:06:21.17] SHANNON GREEN: So you were telling us about your sabbatical.

[01:06:23.20] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh my God. Briefly. So St. Joseph's Center was very challenging. For six years I worked on building this building and having the new site. And I said, "You need a break!" I was on the search committee for VaLecia Adams [Kellum, President and CEO of St. Joseph Center], and I thought, "Okay, we are on our way to have a wonderful Director and I can get out of the way" and get out of the Community Relations position that I was in at the time. So I asked the community--Sisters of St. Joseph leadership--if I could apply for a sabbatical. All my other Sisters in my reception had already done it in their fifties. I was sixty when I took my year sabbatical. And under the direction of [Sister] Joanne Heinritz, who is just brilliant with travel--she helped me map out an incredible all around the world sabbatical. So I started out from Los Angeles, and I ended up in Los Angeles, but it took me a year. And I went to some wonderful places like Jerusalem for six weeks, because Bishop Sartoris [Joseph Martin Sartoris ((1927-), retired Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles] suggested that I could study there. And it was amazing. It was a six-week program, and I learned just incredible things about scripture and the Gospel and the way that Jesus walked around in those very places. And ever since then I've been a different person, as far as reading scripture--praying scripture. But I kind of started out with a two-week trip in Ireland that was just wonderful, with Sister Joanne Gallagher as the leader. And it never rained there. I don't know what that was about, because I have heard it's always raining. But I stayed also three extra weeks with my cousin and her husband who lived in Northern Ireland. And there were more animals than people there. And it was a great place to kind of debrief from all my life really. I kind of put things together and was--reflected on, "I really am happy being a Sister of St. Joseph after forty years". And it continues to call me as a human being to be all that I can be. And I continued to go through France, and stayed with some wonderful Sisters of St. Joseph in Annecy. Went to the Alps--went with an 82 year old Sister to go sky diving, but I didn't do it because it looked really scary. She didn't either, but she showed me what we could do. And went to Rome for the canonization of Father Damien from Molokai [Hawaii] and met 800 people from Hawaii, who--we all celebrated Father Damien's canonization. And saw Benedict [Pope Benedict XVI (1927-)]--I didn't meet him, but he was on a big screen at the canonization. And then went from there to--all around Florence and Italy and just having a great time. And ended up going--Sister Joanne told me that if you keep going around the world the same direction it's cheaper. So I got my flights to go from Jerusalem to Jordan to Bangkok to Japan, and I spent five weeks with our Sisters in Japan, and loved--again loved every minute of it--learned a lot about the Japanese culture by being there. It was my second time to Japan, because I had gone with [Sister] Lynn Levo as leaders

and gave a couple of retreats, and that was very exciting to come back. And kept going, and what's between Japan and Los Angeles, but Hawaii. So I got to go to the Hana Coast, and make my final retreat--which is--they say it's the spiritual center of the Earth, and I believed it, because that's where I kind of put everything together from the sabbatical and gave me time for reflection. And the interesting thing is that when I got to one of the convents in Hawaii, I went online to--now we have computers--and I opened up the computer, and the last person to use it was [Sister] Marilyn Rudy, who was also the only other person that has Juno [software?] at the time. And I was a Juno person. So I kind of--she had just died in--the December before. So I made a little pact with her that I would be about social justice in my life--about meeting the needs of people everywhere from Hawaii to wherever. And she gave me lots of energy, on the most beautiful beach of--it's--the top ten beach is Kailua. So thank you Marilyn. And she had started, along with [Sister] Louise Bernstein, St. Joseph Center, so it was kind of full circle for me to meet Marilyn in that computer.

[01:11:57.14] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: And then I came back to Los Angeles, and was asked to go to St. Mary's Academy. And that's where I said, "I cannot be the Development Director unless I know the girls--I have to see these students". And I lasted about three days teaching a Religion class, and I realized I can't do this. I had to have everything online, as far as the syllabus and all of my lesson plans. I said, "I can't do this". It's a great thing to be a teacher, but I was done with teaching. And so I concentrated on raising money for these young women. And I did it to the best of my ability. And I loved St. Mary's Academy.

[01:12:43.13] SHANNON GREEN: So, St. Joseph Worker--can you talk about it in terms of--first of all, a little brief description of what it is--but in terms of the--one of the manifestations of the charism. You okay?

[01:12:56.02] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Yeah. Got that. So after St. Mary's Academy I felt called to do something with the Sisters of St. Joseph in our movement towards helping young women live their dreams. And that meant for me to follow the St. Joseph Worker program. And we needed a Director in this province, and I was free. And so I said yes to that--it was a job--it wasn't really a job it was my heart. I just thought, this is what we need to do as Sisters of St. Joseph is support young women who want to change the world, who want to be committed to social justice, but who have a hard time in our culture, because they need to make money, they need to pay loans. And yet, our program is a one year program that allows them to have a house, allows them to live together in community, to be about the Four Pillars of the program: community living, justice, spirituality, and leadership as a woman. And many volunteer programs have those three, but not the "leadership as a woman". And so we adopted that along with the St. Joseph Worker program in St. Paul, Minnesota, where it started. And I'm in my fifth year now of being the Director of this program, where applicants come from all over the country, from Connecticut to Ohio to Arizona to Washington state. And these are young women who know about the program from the Internet, or know about--because a friend has done it. And they know--it's a time for them to work very diligently with people who are on the margins, whether it's at Homeboys with gang kids, or whether it's with people who are experiencing homelessness from St. Joseph Center, to downtown Los Angeles. And they dedicate themselves, 36 hours a week working--really more, because of the commutes. And then on the weekends we help them discern why the Sisters of St. Joseph are supporting this program. What is it about our charism that we want to have really as our legacy for our community, for the times, and why the Sisters of St. Joseph charism is still active today. One where--we get to have sharing of the heart every Monday night. They discern where they saw God this week--how they come together in community through their own reflection on how they come physically, how they come mentally, emotionally, and what they have to say for the good of the community. And that's always challenging, because it's how to have those difficult conversations when you know that God is calling you, but maybe God isn't calling everybody to think about what

we do as our prayer life, or how we celebrate birthdays, or how we celebrate life. And what is living in "white privilege" and what is challenging when maybe you recognize that not everybody is white. And so we help them live the charism of unifying love at their sites and in their intentional communities. And when they struggle, we're there to support them. And when they're flying--like what we just did this weekend, and we drove all the way to the border in Arizona and we joined many people from across the country to be one with immigrants--to be one with people who are on this side of the border, but their family is on the other side of the border. And see what that wall is all about, and how division is not healthy for anybody. And how our--how to critique our politics and what that's about, in community, and not get depressed about it. And I think that's a really important thing with the St. Joseph Worker program, is one could get really depressed going to work every day and seeing people who are struggling. And yet there is hope, because we are all humans, we are all together on this planet, and hopefully will continue to be on this planet with joy and community. Oh that did the charism thing--

[01:17:48.20] SHANNON GREEN: That was good. So now the part that's going to make you cry.

[01:17:52.20] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: Oh, I hate you. [all laugh].

[01:17:54.20] SHANNON GREEN: Did you want to share about any--a Sister or anyone who is not with us any longer?

[01:18:02.24] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: When I think about people in the community who have either been mentors for me or been friends, the--a lot of people--but the one who comes to mind is Sister Suzanne Stefan. And I remember the day she called me. I was at the Mount, and she called me and said, "We have this caravan going to a prison in Northern California--do you want to come and find out about what the women need?" And I said, "I'm very involved at Mount St. Mary's College--I cannot spend any more time anywhere, Suzanne--I can't do this." And so she just hung up and went on without me. And she's a friend of mine. And she eventually started Get on the Bus [program for families visiting women in prison] without me. [laughs]. She's such a--she died a couple of years ago, and she just continues to be an inspiration for me, because she really was on the cutting edge of the signs of the times. She wanted to go into those prisons and interview the women along with the warden saying yes to this nun caravan--it was all Sisters who were going to this prison. And she was such a visionary in meeting the needs of the people at the bottom of the pyramid--really at the bottom of the pyramid. So Suzanne, besides being an innovator in ministry, she was also an artist--beautiful artist. And painted and saw things in life that most people didn't see.

[01:19:52.15] SHANNON GREEN: Is there anything else you wanted to talk about that I didn't ask you? That you prepared, or--

[01:20:06.26] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: You kind of snuck that--I guess I don't want to talk about the Women's March in [Washington] D. C. but--[laughs].

[01:20:16.15] SHANNON GREEN: Give us a few seconds on the Women's March.

[01:20:19.07] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: March in D. C. Is that too controversial?

[01:20:21.25] SHANNON GREEN: No, it's just your story.

[01:20:24.22] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: My story. It's current. It will be in the archives, right? I don't want to be crying with it.

[01:20:29.28] SHANNON GREEN: You're good. You look good.

[01:20:31.12] SISTER JUDY MOLOSKY: No I don't. I can feel the big wet things on my eyeballs. [laughs]. That's a great story. Okay, so we had this election in the United States [2016] and it was a competition between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump. And I said to myself, "I want to be around for Hilary Clinton being the elected first woman President of these United States. I'm going to buy a ticket." So Sister Jo'Ann DeQuattro, a friend of mine, and I both bought tickets on Southwest to go to the Inauguration for Hilary. That was July, before the election in November. And I was so convinced that she was going to get it, and worked hard for the Clinton campaign. And so November--I think it was November 2, 2016, my birthday--and Hilary did not win. And I was incredibly depressed, but I was with these wonderful Catholic Volunteer Network people at a conference here in LA, and we kind of were in a bubble of supporting one another--how do we get through this?--with [Sister] Simone Campbell leading the discussion. It was great. And two days later, I got this email that said, "The women are marching the day after the Inauguration and we are going to do this". And so I did not turn in my ticket to go to Washington. I kept my ticket and I was so inspired by this growing movement of women to--really--challenge the election, but also challenge the rhetoric that Donald Trump had used in the campaign. So it kind of grew really big, and all the St. Joseph Workers wanted to go. And I go, "How am I going to get five people to Washington, D.C. I can't do that!" And I asked Sister Claire Marie [Williams??], "Would you give up some of your Southwest frequent flyer miles?" And then I asked some of the provincials, past provincials--[Sister] Barbara Anne Stowasser gave hers, and [Sister] Teresa Cavalli gave hers, and we got five young women to go to the March. And they know that it was life-changing. And they came back and said, "The millennial women are going to be the new social justice change-makers in this world". And they were convinced that that was what they wanted to do. And I was convinced that it had been the right thing to do, to be on the streets with a million people. And the first people I met were two young women, who said, "The future is feminine". And I said, "Could I take your picture with your sign?" And they said, "Sure!" And I said, "I'm from Los Angeles--where are you from?" And they said, "Brentwood School" on Sunset Blvd in California. And I said, "Oh my God, I can't believe out of a million people I meet you two!" And I still have that picture and it's just a great picture in my life--that we are very close to one another. And we just need to keep moving towards opening doors for people on the bottom of the pyramid.

[01:23:47.11] [Director's comments].

[01:24:19.03] End of interview.

Interview Index

Interview Date: 11/15/2017

Interviewee: Sister Judy Molosky

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Sean Gary, Kelby Thwaits, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University.

Location: Carondelet Center, Los Angeles, California.

Transcription Date: 01/18/2017

Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments]

[00:00:33.24] Date, location participants.

[00:00:47.24] Full name and age: Sister Judy Molosky, age 70.

[00:01:01.07] Early life and family. Born Los Angeles, California. One brother. St. Anselm's parish. Meeting CSJs in 7th grade. Sister Clara Joseph [?]. Early social justice conscience--segregated housing in Inglewood, California.

[00:03:20.02] [Director's comments].

[00:04:42.05] Early religious life. Mother's involvement with CSJs. Skiing and other hobbies. Travel due to mother's work for American Airlines.

[00:06:34.27] [Director's comments].

[00:06:44.23] Segregated housing in Inglewood, California. Story about neighbors throwing eggs at house.

[00:08:31.10] Early vocation. Sister Joseph Adele [Edwards (1933–2011)]. Early impressions of CSJs vs. other orders. Cheerleader in high school at St. Bernard's, Westchester area of Los Angeles, California.

[00:11:03.17] Entering CSJs in 1965. Habit. Parents' reaction to vocation. Hopes for religious life--being of service.

[00:13:45.05] Postulant and novitiate life. Discussing leaving novices in private. Sister Joseph Adele [Edwards (1933–2011)]. Sister Dorothy Mary [(formerly Cathy) Edwards]. Being a "God-seeker"--seeing God in all things. Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O. [(1915–1968), American Catholic writer, theologian and mystic]. Henri Jozef Machiel Nouwen [(1932–1996), Dutch theologian].

[00:15:54.10] Vatican II changes. Changes: drivers licenses, watches, home visits. Returning to Founders' vision. "People of God".

[00:18:16.20] Change in habit. Keeping habit due to broken ankle. Attending Mount Saint Mary's College. Learning sewing to make new habits. Rule about physical impairment preventing profession.

[00:21:17.24] Attending MSMC, Mathematics major, Social studies Minor. Unavailability of books. Supplementary courses at California State University, Northridge. Rules against talking to lay

students. Letters from priests at former high school.

[00:23:36.22] Influence of boyfriend Tim at Loyola High School on future vocation. Story about wanting twelve children.

[00:26:16.20] Early ministries. First mission in San Francisco at St. Thomas the Apostle school teaching 7th and 8th grade math and science. Challenges living in community. Raising chinchillas in science lab. Sister Marcella Fabing, Principal. Serving as Vice Principal.

[00:28:50.20] Teaching high school at Carondelet High School, Concord, California 4 years. Sister Kathleen M. Kelly. Working as sophomore class advisor and students smoking marijuana.

[00:30:18.24] Returning to Los Angeles to teach at Bishop Conaty High School.

[00:30:38.14] [Directors' comments].

[00:31:18.00] Community life while at Carondelet High School (1972–1976). Sister Kathleen M. Kelly, Principal. Experiments with group government (no superiors) in 1972. Interacting with priests from Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, California. Teaching Sisters to ski. Visiting Hawaii with Sister Anne McMullen and students. Prayer life.

[00:34:02.19] Influential theologians and spiritual movements. Jake Empereur, SJ [American theologian]. "Signs of the times". Changes in ministries. Social justice involvement: "Match 2" program (religious and prison inmates). Story about first visit to prison.

[00:37:35.08] Other social justice issues. Farm workers movement [Grape Boycott] and Cesar Chavez [(1927–1993), American civil rights activist]. Sister Marilyn Schaefer. Sister Anne McMullen. Helping others be aware of injustice. Political power: "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely". Dorothy Day [Obl.S.B., (1897–1980), American journalist and social activist]: "Comfort the afflicted, but afflict the comfortable". Catholic Worker Movement.

[00:41:08.28] [Director's comments].

[00:41:22.25] House of Ruth. Leaving Carondelet High School to work at Bishop Conaty High School. Awareness of underprivileged students. Creating convent and house for homeless women with children. Other founding Sisters: Sister Georgeann O'Brien '53 [d. 1993]; Sister Jeanette Van Vleck [1943–2003]; Sister Linda Pearson [?]. Story about baby born on couch. Sister Carol [Persicki?]. Working in House of Ruth 5 years.

[00:47:43.28] [Director's comments]

[00:48:06.09] Working as Provincial Vocation Director 6 years. Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy, Provincial. Discerning a vocation. Working on Board of National Catholic Vocation Director's Association. Sister Anne Davis. Sister Jan Husung. Sister Donna Gibbs.

[00:50:48.05] [Director's comments].

[00:51:52.18] Working at St. Joseph Center. 1986 Immigration Laws. Ronald Wilson Reagan [(1911–2004), American president]. Helping immigrants in U.S. for ten years gain residency. Founding job cooperative "Listo" ("ready") for those unable to get citizenship or residency. Meeting singers Peter, Paul and Mary; Marla Maples [later wife of Donald Trump]. Trying to visit Honduras

to protest U.S. military buildup. Visiting Washington, D. C. with Sister Judy Vaughan and Sister Pat Kromer re: Honduras. Time Magazine article.

[00:56:04.03] Working on first congregational leadership team 1993 (4 years). Making videos as candidates for congregational leadership. Sister Thomas Bernard [MacConnell (1926–)]. Sister Toni Nash. Sister Lynn Levo. Sister Marie Damien [??]. Sister Rose McLarney. Sister Nancy Conway. Sister Jean Alvarez. Working as liaison with Hawaiian Sisters.

[00:59:01.00] Returning to Los Angeles 1997. Founding MSMC Center for Urban Partnership. Service learning for students.

[01:00:15.21] Leaving leadership work. Fund-raising and marketing. Development director. St. Joseph Worker program. Consciousness-raising and social justice. Empowering people. Raising funding for new building for St. Joseph Center (6 years).

[01:04:18.07] [Director's comments].

[01:06:22.03] Sabbatical. VaLecia Adams [Kellum], President and CEO of St. Joseph Center. Sister Joanne Heinritz. Traveling around the world. Studying in Jerusalem for six weeks. Joseph Martin Sartoris [(1927–), retired Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles]. Visiting Ireland with Sister Joanne Gallagher. Visiting Annecy, France and the Alps. Visiting Rome for the canonization of Father Damien of Molokai, Hawaii. Pope Benedict XVI (1927–). Visiting Jordan, Bangkok and Japan. Visiting Hawaii. Sister Marilyn Rudy. Sister Louise Bernstein.

[01:11:57.14] Working as Development Director at St. Mary's Academy.

[01:12:43.12] Working as Los Angeles Province Director for St. Joseph Worker program (5 years). Four pillars of program: community living, justice, spirituality, and leadership as a woman. Homeboys program. How program supports CSJ charism. White privilege. Unifying love. Activism re: immigrants and border wall. Facing politics without depression.

[01:17:46.06] Influential Sisters. Sister Suzanne Stefan visiting women's prisons and starting "Get on the Bus" program.

[01:19:51.17] [Director's comments].

[01:20:02.13] Other reflections. 2016 Presidential election. Sister Jo'Ann DeQuattro. Sister Simone Campbell. Attending 2017 Women's March in Washington, D.C. with five students. Sister Claire Marie [Williams??]. Sister Barbara Anne Stowasser. Sister Teresa Cavalli.

[01:23:47.12] [Director's comments].

[01:24:19.10] End of interview.